



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD-NF
3437 Airport Way, Suite 206
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 20, 2007
EXPIRATION DATE: March 21, 2007
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-1996-786-0
WATERWAY: Garrison Slough

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Gary J. Schneider, Base Civil Engineer, 2310 Central Avenue, Suite 100, Eielson AFB, Alaska 99702-2299

AGENT: Brent Koenen, 354 CES/CEVN 2310 Central Avenue, Suite 100, Eielson AFB, Alaska 99702-2299, (907) 377-5182

LOCATION: The proposed project is located in sections 3 and 23, T. 3 S., R. 3 E., and section 34, T. 2 S., R. 3 E., Fairbanks Meridian; Latitude 64.6717° N., Longitude -147.1020° W; Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB), Alaska.

PURPOSE: Improve flight safety through the elimination of waterfowl habitat within the Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB) airfield bird exclusion zone.

WORK: Discharge approximately 172,900 cubic yards (cy) of concrete, soil, gravel, and/or gravel pit overburden into 12.1 acres of waters of the United States, wetlands. Work would be performed according to the attached plans (sheets 1-5, dated February 15, 2007).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The wetlands at the north end of the flightline would be excavated to a depth of 25 feet in advance of filling. Excavated areas would become unvegetated deep water habitat, thus rendering the excavations undesirable to birds. Approximately 146,733 cy of miscellaneous fill would be discharged into 10.7 acres in a series of phased trenches (sheet 2). The quantity of each type of fill material would vary depending on availability from other construction projects at EAFB. The most commonly available fill material at EAFB is concrete; wetland excavations would accommodate this material. Should soil or gravel be the readily available fill material, excavations may not occur in advance of fill placement. All filled surfaces would be graded to prevent ponding. Final cover at the north end of the flightline would be gravel to discourage bird use.

At the south end of the flightline, two existing deep water ponds (both 0.7 acres in size) would be filled with approximately 26,136 cy of material. Once filled, these ponds would be capped with two feet of topsoil, graded to match the existing ground level, seeded, and fertilized.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are six unevaluated properties within 0.5 miles of the worksite at the north end of the flightline. All properties are buildings and are designated as: FAI-636, FAI-638, FAI-640, FAI-754, FAI-756, FAI-757. There are ten unevaluated properties within 0.4 miles of the worksite at the south end of the flightline. All properties are buildings and are designated as: FAI-675, FAI-676, FAI-696, FAI-697, FAI-698, FAI-699, FAI-700, FAI-701, FAI-714, and FAI-728. One additional building, FAI-633, was evaluated and determined ineligible. All properties listed as being proximate to the north and south worksites are outside of the project areas, and no further action is required. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. *et seq* and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Sharon Seim at (907) 474-2166 or by email at Sharon.G.Seim@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

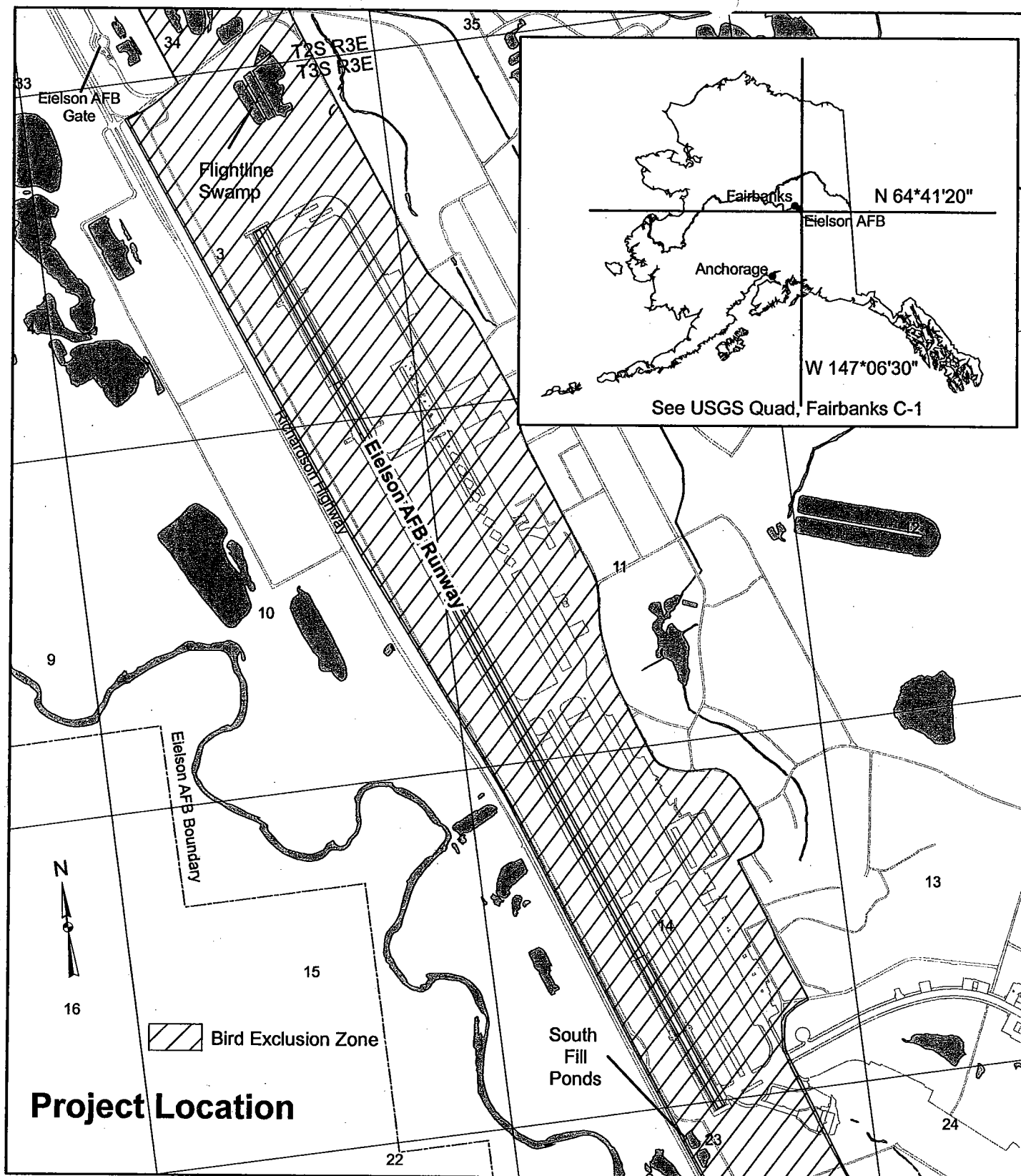
Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No POA 1996 786 O, Garrison Slough serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-6281
FAX: (907) 269-7508



Proposed Filling of Airfield Ponds

Purpose: Flightline Swamp and South Fill Ponds 1 & 2 are located within the airfield bird exclusion zone and encourage waterfowl use which is hazardous to flightline safety.

Nearest Waterbody: Garrison Slough - 2.2 miles upstream from its confluence with Moose Creek

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Sections 3 and 23, T3S, R3E, Section 34, T2S, R3E, Fairbanks Meridia

Eielson Air Force Base

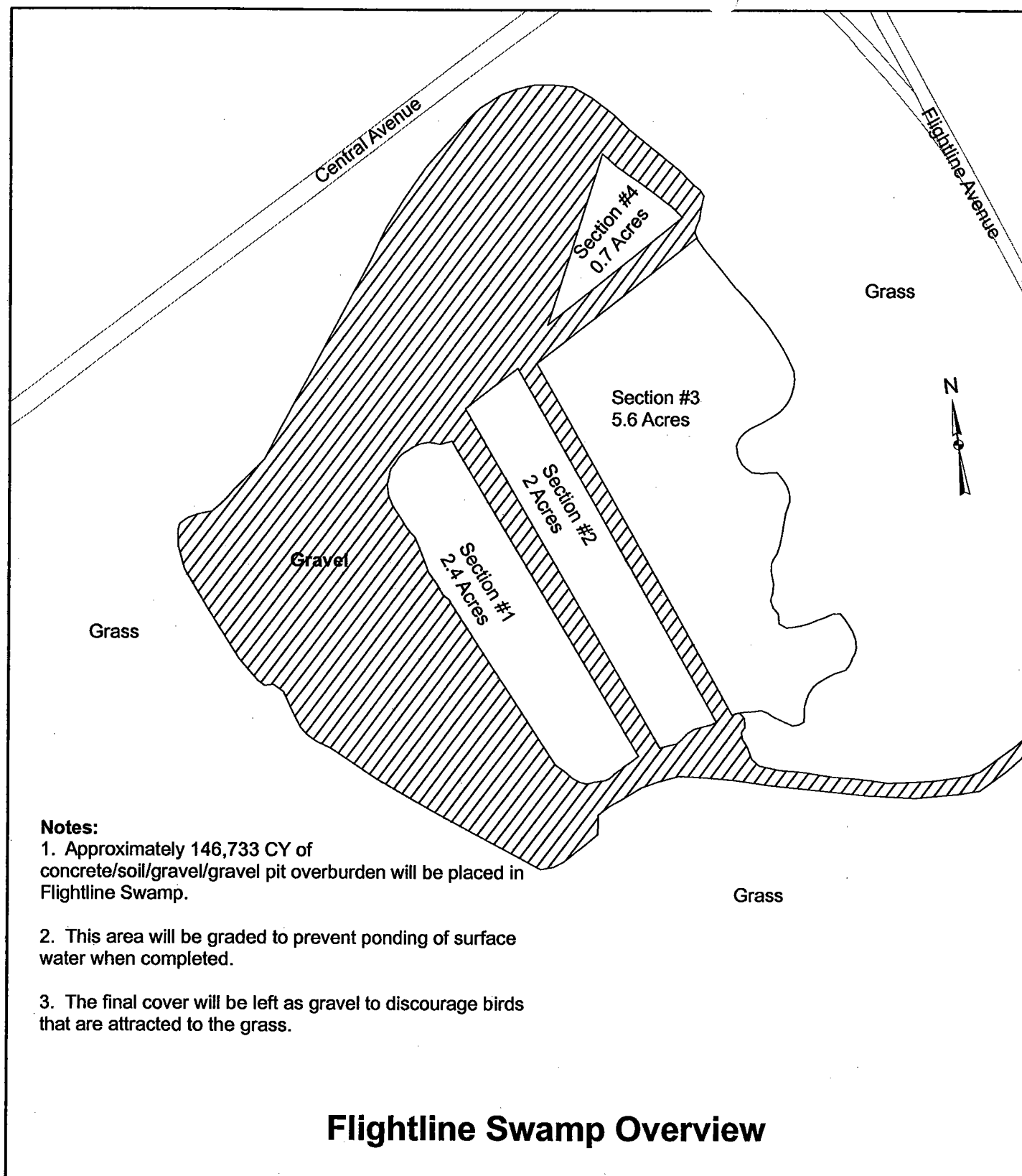
POA-1996-786-O, Garrison Slough

Plans prepared: Feb. 15, 2007, by S. Seim

Project Location & Vicinity

1" ≈ 2000 feet

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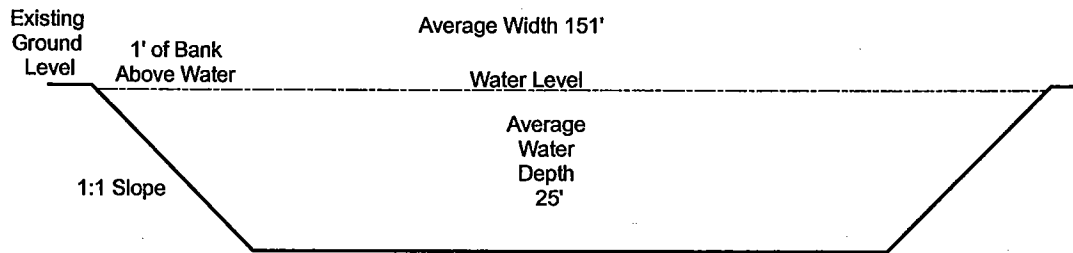
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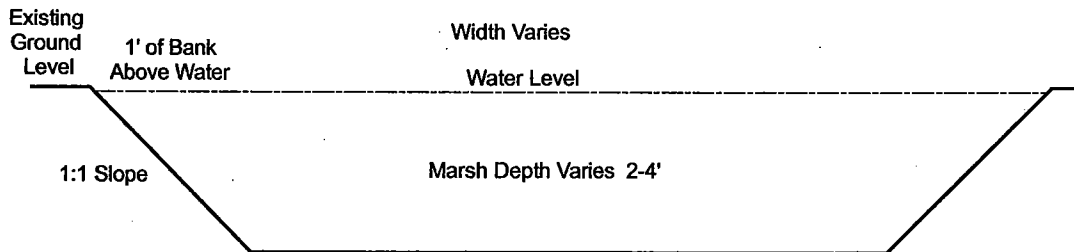
Northern Project Plan

NTS

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Typical Cross-section of Flightline Swamp Section #1



Typical Cross-section of Flightline Swamp Section #2-4

Notes:

1. Approximately 146,733 CY of concrete/soil/gravel/gravel pit overburden will be placed in Flightline Swamp.
2. This area will be graded to prevent ponding of surface water when completed.
3. The final cover will be left as gravel to discourage birds that are attracted to the grass.

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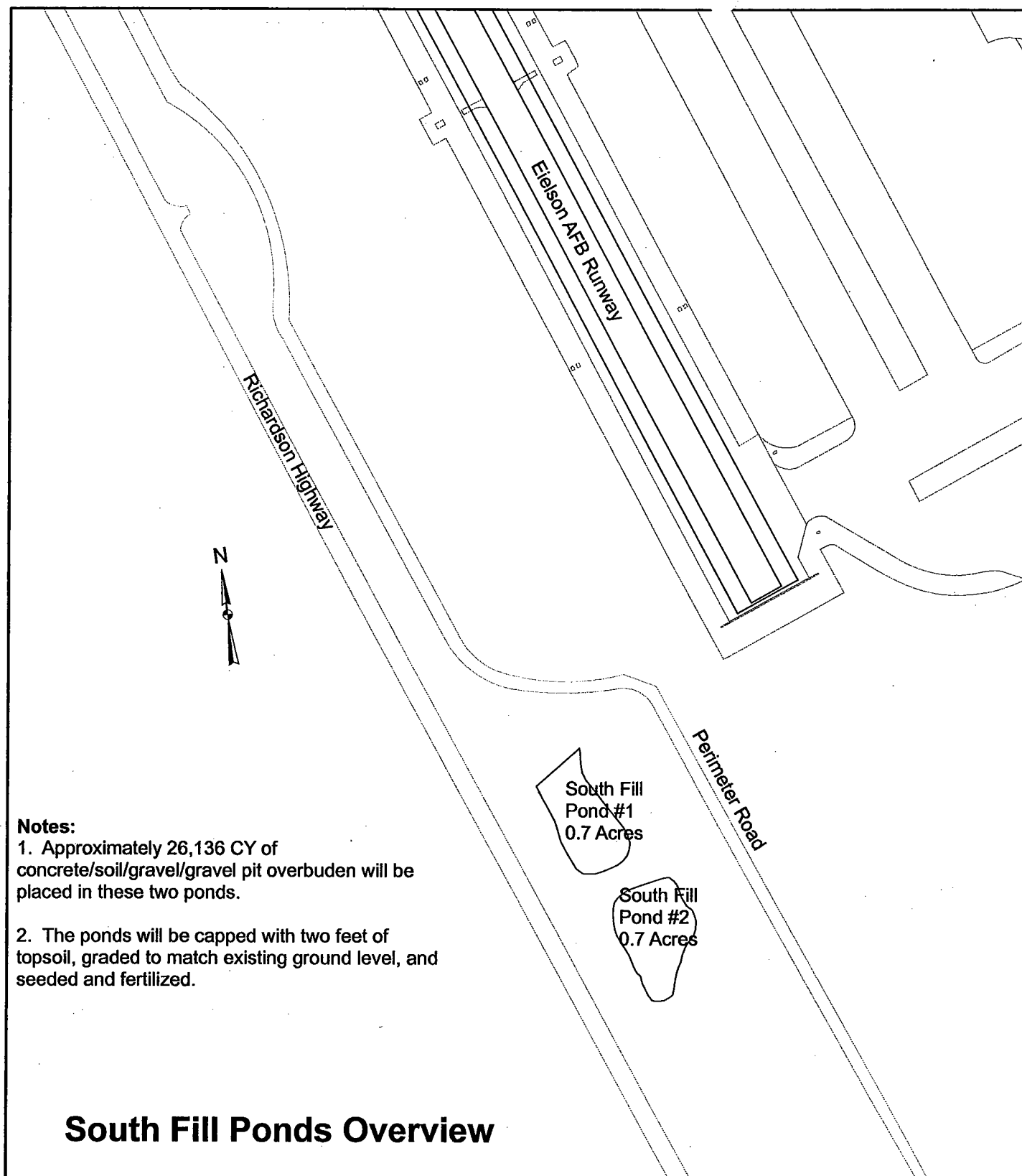
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Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Sections 3 and 23, T3S, R3E, Section 34, T2S, R3E, Fairbanks Meridia

Eielson Air Force Base
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Northern Sections
NTS



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Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Sections 3 and 23, T3S, R3E, Section 34, T2S, R3E, Fairbanks Meridia

Eielson Air Force Base

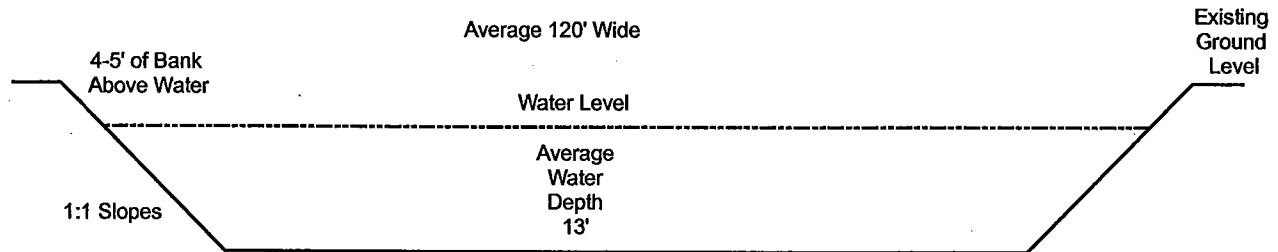
POA-1996-786-O, Garrison Slough

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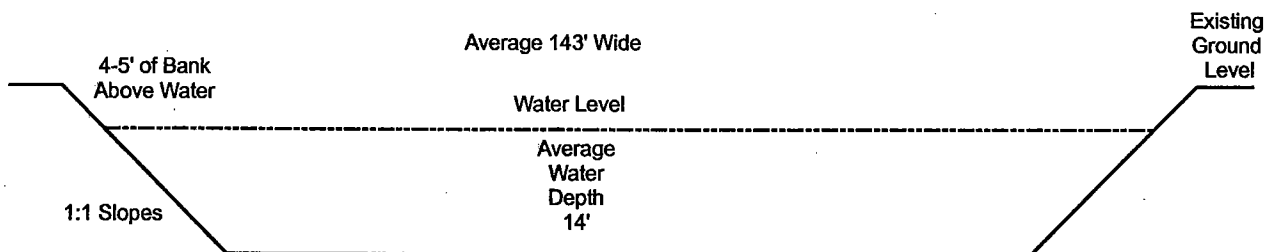
Southern Project Plan

NTS

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Typical Cross-section of South Fill Pond #1



Typical Cross-section of South Fill Pond #2

Notes:

1. Approximately 26,136 CY of concrete/soil/gravel/gravel pit overbuden will be placed in these two ponds.
2. The ponds will be capped with two feet of topsoil, graded to match existing ground level, and seeded and fertilized.

Proposed Filling of Airfield Ponds

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Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska

Sections 3 and 23, T3S, R3E, Section 34, T2S, R3E, Fairbanks Meridia

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Southern Sections

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